SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The hon. Members have themselves talked about the agreement signed with Isreal. We are going to set up tissue culture centres at 24 places in this country. There would be one centre at Delhi and it would have a sattelite link. We would do so to develop tissue culture in 24 areas in the entire country.

As far as desert is concerned it would also be seen by our institute. But nothing has been talked about the Ganga and the sand with Isreal. That we would see ourselves.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the agreements were signed with Isreal during 1993-1996. The per hectare production there is much as compared with our country and the hon. Minister has said that the projects of tissue culture have been set up. In my district Wardha there is a worker named Daga ji. He has done a good job in this field but he does not get subsidy from the centre. In this case, one who does a tremendous job gets subsidy from the centre. He has written to the centre but till date he has not been getting subsidy. Whatever is done in Isreal to increase per hectare production, whether efforts would be made to bring that technique to our country and those who are to be given the subsidy is your responsibility and by when it would be given as per the agreement?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : As far as the subsidy is concerned, we are not ready for that since it has not been mentioned about the subsidy in it. We would inform you separately about that.

We are goint to set up 24 centres with the assistance of Isreal and for the recovery of sugarcane we are going to set up these centres at three places with the assistance of a company of Isreal. One of the institutes would be set up at Coimbtore, one at Lucknow and another at some other place. An agreement would be signed for it with the company. That company has been claimed that it would produce such seeds whcih would lead to the recovery of sugarcane upto 17 per cent. At present we do not have the capacity beyond 11-12 per cent. We have been looking towards that aspect. If it is successful at three places we will take more steps in this regard.

[English]

Import of Edible Oils

+

*223. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's decision to import oil under the OGL and reduction of import duty has stabilised prices of the edible oils and oilseeds during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete policy has been formulated for importing the edible oils during 1997; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The decision of the Government to import edible oils under OGL is guided by the present gap of 9 to 10 lakh tonnes between the demand and supply of edible oils, the annual rate of increase in the demand and the slow growth in the domestic oilseeds production in the country. The OGL imports have helped in stabilising the prices of edible oils and oilsseds in the country during the last 2 years as may be seen from the following :

Edible Oils	February 1996	February 1997 (15.2.97)
Edible Oils (Sub-group)	-1.3%	+2.2%
Vanaspati	-5.9%	-0.2%
Mustard Oil	+0.8%	-5.6%
Groundnut Oil	-0.2%	-1.2%
Cottonseed Oil	-11.4%	-3.1%
Ricebran Oil	-19.4%	-2.9%
EDIBLE OILSEEDS		
Edible Oilseeds (Sub-group)	-5.0%	+6.2%
Mustard Seed	-1.8%	-4.0%
Copra	+22.2%	+42.3%
Groundnut Seed	-6.0%	+15.7%
Cottonseed	-7.6%	-1.9%
Soyabean	+0.1%	+7.7%

(c) and (d) The existing import under OGL is taking place under the EXIM Policy of the Government. No decision has been taken yet for importing palmolein during 1997 under PDS.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : In 1994-95, the import of edible oil was 8.32 lakh tonnes. Every year it is getting on increasing. In 1995, it was 12 lakh tonnes; in 1997, it is 15 lakh tonnes; and in 1998, it will be 17 lakh tonnes. Edible oil imports are going up like this. There will be a heavy drain in the foreign exchange

reserves, since edible oil imports is the second largest item after petroleum products. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being considered to reduce the import of edible oil; if not, the main reasons for not doing so, and the amount of money our country has to spend on import of edible oils yearly.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, edible oil is under O.G.L. and its demand is from some particular states for P.D.S. from August to November. In the year 1991-92, 183 lakh tonnes of edible oilseeds were produced, but for increasing its production in the year 1996-97 hon. Members are saying that its imports should be minimised. The Government is quite wakeful regarding reducing its imports and its production in the year 1996-97 has been 230 lakh metric tonnes. It was increased by about 50 lakh tonnes during these five years therefore, the Government are making efforts to maximise production of edible oils in the country and we may become self-sufficient in this field. This question is basically related to the department of Agriculture and many measures have been taken in this regard.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, self-sufficiency in vegetable oils depends on domestic production, and our consumption was 69 per cent in the year 1986-87. This led to the adoption of a policy of self-reliance in edible oil in the year 1986. An attempt was undertaken to boost oil production through Special Technology Mission. So, ultimately it has gone up by 11.5 per cent in the year 1990-91. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether we would be able to achieve self-sufficiency to the tune of 97 per cent. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister that when self-sufficiency was achieved in 1991, what circumstances led it to come down to 83 per cent. I want to know whether the Government has the capacity to increase the level of self sufficiency to 100 per cent. What steps the Government proposes to take to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oil the increase of which was 97 per cent in 1991?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. member has talked about the Technology Mission. As far as the Technology Mission on oilseeds and pulses is concerned, under it research is being conducted for improved and high yielding varieties of seeds edible oil such seeds are trying to be developed as may be free from disease, efforts in this direction are being made through the Technology Mission. Regarding production, I have already said that we are making every possible efforts.

As far as the gap between demand and supply is concerned, there is a gap of 9 to 10 lakh tonnes in demand and supply at present there is the demand is of the order of 4 lakh tonnes now, whereas we have been importing 1½ to 2 lakh tonnes of edible oils for P.D.S. As people are being provided wheat and rice through ration cards as per their entitlement the demand of edible oils among the consumers exceeds that demand on special festivals and that too in particular states. There are about 5-6 states in the whole of the country where edible oil is supplied through P.D.S. Last year a subsidy of about 50 crores was given under this head. We have been making efforts to maximise the production of edible oils in the country and we may become self-sufficient in this regard. All possible effort measures are being taken for this purpose..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sorry to interrupt you. When are you going to achieve the target of 97 per cent self-sufficiency in edible oil?

[Translation]

Whether any target have been fixed in this regard, that is what I am asking.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Have you fixed any target for self-sufficiency? When will you achieve self-sufficiency? By which year?

[Translation]

By when are we likely to become self-sufficient, whether any targets have been fixed therefor?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I have already said that this question originally pertains to the Ministry of Agriculture as the department of Agriculture is concerned with increasing the production. The job of the Ministry of Food is only to make allocations to the States which distribute it furthers.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The hon. Agriculture Minister is here. He can give the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I had information in this regard from the Ministry of Agriculture which I want to share with the House to appraise it of the efforts being made for increasing the production of edible oils in the country. Intensive efforts are being made for increasing the production of edible oils and

improving the varieties of seeds. Provision have been made to impart training to the farmers. Fertilizers are used after applying the pesticides. Efforts are being made for increasing the irrigation capacity and the use of sprinklers is being encouraged.

MR. SPEAKER : If any target has been fixed, then please tell the year.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Target is there that is why the Department of Agriculture is taking initiative in the direction of increasing the production.

MR. SPEAKER : Please tell us the year.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : No year exactly has been fixed so far. There is no such programme, but as I have mentioned earlier there has been an increase of 50 lakh tonnes in the production of edible oil during the last five years. If in the next two to three years, production of edible oil increases by then we must hope that we would certainly become self-sufficient in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I could not understand why the Government is not importing sunflower oil on a large scale while we are getting it for Rs. 25 less than the pamolein oil in the international market. Is the Government continuing to import oil seeds and edible oil? If so, why is the Government not importing sunflower oil instead of pamolein oil in order to save foreign exchange?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that there is a gap of 9 to 10 lakh between demand and supply thereof and there are two effects of it. It can have adverse effect on consumers also in future and also on oil seed growers.

MR. SPEAKER : You may tell us whether sunflower oil is being imported or not? That is the question.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : It is available at a cheaper rate.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provision of importing sunflower oil is under O.G.L. So far there was 30 per cent custom duty on it so far which has been reduced to 22 per cent in the last year's Budget and it has been equated in the current budget also in order to facilitate its imports. Now, this custom duty would be imposed equally both in O.G.L. and P.D.S.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister, pamolein is distributed in Maharashtra, but there is acute shortage of it there. When we distribute it there under the Public Distribution System, there is a great demand for it there and people don't get pamolein oil for months. Keeping this in view, whether the Government of India has any scheme for supplying it to those people who demanding for it and what is the decision it has taken in this respect regarding Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, this question does not arise out of this. You are talking about distribution, but the question is about import.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Why not, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : How you expect the hon. Minister to answer about distribution here? The question is about the Import Policy.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, my question is whether it will be made available.

[Translation]

Police Complaint Authority

*224. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Police Complaint Authority has been constituted in Delhi with the approval of Central Government to consider specially the cases of violation of Human Rights;

(b) if so, the number of members of this Authority;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directions for constituting such an Authority in other States as well;

(d) if so, the time by which these Authorities will be constituted indicating detailed functions of this Authority; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government has decided to set up a "Police Complaints Authority" consisting of a Chairman and three Members (including part-time Members) for speedy redressal of complaints made by the members of the public against acts of omission and commission on the part of officials of Delhi Police (including cases of inaction, harassment or misbehaviour, extortion or